

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02
FEAE-00 INT-05 OIC-02 CU-02 IOE-00 /100 W
-----141452Z 024217 /43

P 141415Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6791

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 3289

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, UNEP
SUBJECT: LUNCHEON WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR, MARCH 16

REF: (A) STATE 52270, (B) NAIROBI 2977

1. IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR FOUR POINT AGENDA (REF B) SOVIETS
HANDED US PAPER MARKED CONFIDENTIAL (THEY MADE POINT OF
STATING THEY CONSIDER OUR DISCUSSIONS CONFIDENTIAL)
CONTAINING FIVE POINTS FOR A BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS AT
MARCH 16 LUNCHEON. THE FIRST OF THEIR POINTS IS SIMILAR
TO ONE OF OURS, I.E., THE LEVEL OF UNEP FUND FOR NEXT FIVE YEAR
PERIOD. THE OTHER FOUR POINTS ARE MORE GENERAL IN NATURE
AND RELATE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF UNEP
AND TO US-USSR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT.
THE SOVIET FOUR POINTS AND THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS FOLLOW:

A) "THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENTS
OF MEMBERS COUNTRIES (POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN
INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
QUESTIONS)."

THIS QUESTION ARISES FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE CONTEXT
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OF PROGRAM CONTROL, EVALUATION OF PROGRAM OR, AS IN
THIS CASE, ON FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT.
WE HAVE NOT TO DATE DISCERNED ANY REAL NEED FOR SUCH
A COMMITTEE AND SO LONG AS THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL
MEETS ANNUALLY, THE NEED FOR SUCH MACHINERY DOES NOT
SEEM ACUTE. IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE, NEVERTHELESS,
EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY THE EXAMPLE OF

THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY (A & B) COMMITTEE OF THE IAEA OR SIMILAR BODIES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. THE EXISTENCE OF A SMALL A & B COMMITTEE TO MEET ONCE BETWEEN SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO REPORT TO IT MIGHT EXPEDITE AND SIMPLIFY GOVERNING COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS AND PROVIDE FOR MORE DETAILED AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE. FOR NOW, WE PLAN TO HEAR THE SOVIETS OUT AND KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE QUESTION.

B. "DRASTIC CHANGES ON PROCEDURE OF UNOFFICIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNEP TOP OFFICIALS."

THIS ITEM REFERS TO THE MEETINGS OF ALL NAIROBI-BASED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND FOCAL POINTS WHICH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALLS FROM TIME TO TIME FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING NAIROBI MISSIONS OF UNEP DEVELOPMENTS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION WITH THESE MEETINGS AMONG THE WEO GROUP WHICH EVIDENTLY THE SOVIETS SHARE. PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN ADE INFORMALLY FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE AN AGENDA FOR THESE MEETINGS AND PERHAPS SOME BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION. AT ONE SUCH MEETING, FOLLOWING THE SECRETARIAT'S PRESENTATION NOT A SINGLE QUESTION WAS ASKED. THE PERMREPS AND FOCAL POINTS CONCLUDE THA IF THEY ARE FOREWARNED OF THE SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED AND HAVE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION THEY WILL BE BETTER PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE SECRETARIAT'S PRESENTATION AT THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETINGS. THE US PERMREP SEES SOME VALUE IN THE SECRETARIAT ISSUING AN INFORMAL AGENDA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME BELIEVES WE SHOULD AVOID OVERLY FORMALIZING THESE MEETINGS. THEIR CHIEF VALUE IS TO PERMIT AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND, AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA LIKES TO REFER TO THEM, "THE FRIENDS OF UNEP" IN NAIROBI. A CERTAIN SPONTANEITY WOULD GO OUT OF THESE MEETINGS IF THEY WERE TOO FORMAL AND PREDICTIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED PARTICULARLY FROM WEO COUNTRIES, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEDMAN IS HOLDING A SERIES OF SMALLER MEETINGS WITH PERMREPS DURING THE CURRENT WEEK. ONE OF THE TOPICS THAT WILL CERTAINLY BE RAISED WITH HIM WILL BE THIS QUESTION OF HOW TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND NAIROBI MISSIONS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUR LUNCHEON WITH THE SOVIETS, WE INTEND TO CONFINE OURSELVES TO STATING THAT WE SHARE THE CONCERN TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO DO SO, AND

THAT WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST THE RESULTS OF THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS WITH STEDMAN AND THE CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN THEREFROM.

C. "FURTHER ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE WORK OF THE GC SESSIONS".

WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND HERE, BUT THIS APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO POINT A ABOVE, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE. IN OUR LUNCHEON WITH THE SOVIETS WE WILL HEAR THEM OUT AND INDICATE IN A GENERAL WAY THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN STREAMLINING WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, IMPROVING THE DOCUMENTATION MADE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AND CUTTING DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH ARE ADOPTED.

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D. "POSSIBILITIES OF USING THE UNEP WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF THE BILATERAL US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN THEFIELD OF
ENVIRONMENT."

AGAIN, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND HERE AND IN RESPONSE TO PERMREP'S QUESTION, DANILOV, COUNSELOR OF THE SOVIET MISSION TO UNEP, WAS NOT ABLE TO SUGGEST ANY SPECIFICS. UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS SOME GUIDANCE FOR US IN THIS REGARD, WE WILL LISTEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SOVIETS AND REPORT THEM. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF US/SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY REACTION
DEPARTMENT HAS TO ABOVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 16.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRATOSPHERE, BRIEFING MATERIALS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, AMBASSADORS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB03289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0088
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770363/aaaacdbv.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65547bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 52270, 77 NAIROBI 2977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3118544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUNCHEON WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR, MARCH 16
TAGS: SENV, PDIP, US, UR, UNEP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65547bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009